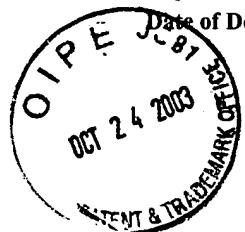


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PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. 15966-577 (CURA-77)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Shimkets *et al.*

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/662,783

EXAMINER: Dong Jiang

FILING DATE: September 12, 2000

ART UNIT: 1646

FOR: GROWTH FACTOR POLYPEPTIDES AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE TO JUNE 24, 2003 OFFICE ACTION

This filing is in response to the Office Action mailed June 24, 2003 ("Office Action"). It is due on or before October 24, 2003, with the enclosed one-month petition for extension of time and accompanying fee. Prior to further examination, please see the following remarks.